

and the minority have concurred with these technical changes prior to Senator McCain offering his version on the Senate floor yesterday. I urge Members of this body to join me in support of this bill so that it can be sent to the President and this redtape burden can be lifted from the executive branch. I hope that this fully explains the gentleman's inquiry.

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REFERRAL OF VETO MESSAGE ON H.R. 2586, TEMPORARY INCREASE IN PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT, TO COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the veto message on the bill (H.R. 2586) to provide for a temporary increase in the public debt limit, and for other purposes, be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

SUPPORT THE RICKY RAY BILL

(Mr. GOSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, this morning, more than 200 high school students gathered on the Capital steps to rally in support of "justice for all." They urge our passage of H.R. 1023, the Ricky Pay Hemophilia Relief Fund Act. This is a justice bill, designed to meet Government's share of the responsibility for a terrible medical tragedy that occurred in the early 1980's, when 8,000 people with hemophilia became infected with the virus that causes AIDS through the use of contaminated blood products. A review of the record shows that the Government failed to respond to the early warning signs of blood-borne AIDS and missed opportunities to protect hemophiliacs. The students have chosen to lobby on behalf of this legislation in part because most of them today are at the age that Ricky Ray—a constituent of mine—would have been if he had lived.

Tragically, Ricky Ray, and too many like him, succumbed to AIDS in December of 1992, at the age of only 15. Please join more than 160 of our colleagues and cosponsor this bill. It's the right thing to do.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GIBBONS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GIBBONS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. SMITH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SMITH of Michigan addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington [Mr. METCALF] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. METCALF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2621, PROTECTING FEDERAL TRUST FUNDS

Mr. GOSS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-388) on the resolution (H. Res. 293) providing for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2621) to enforce the public debt and to protect the Social Security trust funds and other Federal trust funds and accounts invested in public debt obligations, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

VACATING OF SPECIAL ORDER

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to vacate my request to speak for 5 minutes today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. POSHARD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. POSHARD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas [Mr. TIAHRT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. TIAHRT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. MFUME] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MFUME addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. JONES] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

ON THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, many times during the vigorous debate on the House floor, much of what is spoken of is sometimes confusing and traveling in murky waters as the American people try to understand the direction that this Congress is taking. Interestingly enough, as we heard last evening, the President vetoing H.R. 2491, many might have thought that here we go again with an attempt at being an obstructionist and not pursuing the needs of the American people.

But I think there needs to be a little explanation as to how we got to this

day, for many of us stayed here the weekend before Thanksgiving to make a commitment to the American people. That was that we would get a budget and, yes, we would agree on a 7-year budget. But as Democrats and the President pressed forward, we made certain points that must be reemphasized. We said we would do so, protecting Medicare, Medicaid, student loans, food stamps, not hurt the environment, raise taxes, not raise taxes on millions of working men and women and their families by slashing the earned income tax credit, and thereby providing a huge tax cut for beneficiaries making over \$200,000. That, Mr. Speaker, was in the continuing resolution, no doubt. The language was as clear as black and white.

Now we come to a point where we are making accusations about the President's veto. He made it clear. We will work with you on a 7-year budget. But we understand the needs of Americans, education, Medicare reform, but handling and responding to the needs of Americans with health care, Medicaid, the environment. How many Americans have sent the Republicans here to dismantle the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act?

This is reflected in the VA-HUD bill that we saw today passed, even though it cuts VA facilities, veterans facilities by 62 percent. It cuts housing programs by 21 percent. It cuts the Environmental Protection Act by 21 percent. It cuts Superfund cleanups which in fact in my home communities in the 18th Congressional District, two neighborhoods now are facing the need to have environmental cleanup. That is cut by some 19 percent. Funds for elderly and disabled housing are each cut by 40 percent.

But the real irony, Mr. Speaker, is that just 8 days or so ago, this VA-HUD bill was recommitted to the conference committee with instructions to restore dollars for veterans health. In the shadow of Bosnia and on this famous day, December 7, 1995, reflecting on December 7, 1941, here we go again in rejecting the service that veterans have done. Just 8 days ago we recommitted it, but today we have the same Members who voted last time to recommit change their votes because they are more concerned with being in step with the majority than being in step with the American people.

Then in my own district of Houston, we find in the VA-HUD bill extraneous material dealing with public housing. Let me set the record clear. For this project, Allen Parkway Village, I am for providing housing, public housing for the 13,000 who are on the waiting list in Houston. I am for providing housing for seniors, working parents, affordable housing and, yes, public housing for those who need it. I am particularly for getting a master plan that will include the Houston Housing Authority, the city of Houston, the residents and all parties that have been involved.

A master plan sets the direction of how we should be able to compete and how we should be able to structure a housing development that will respond to all the needs of the people. Yes, I am for preservation that would preserve the concepts and the architectural design of an entity that has been noted as having historic value. But we have an extraneous language in the VA-HUD bill that does not relate to bringing people together in Houston. It relates to tearing us apart.

I am going to stand my ground, and that ground is to work with all the parties to ensure that we do have good housing in Houston in the Allen Parkway Village. It is for the elderly. We have it for those needing public housing. We have it for working families. We have a concept, a campus style concept that provides educational training, recreational services, job training so that those citizens in public housing can get out of public housing and become independent and move into other styles of housing.

It is important, Mr. Speaker, that just as the President has asked and the Democrats have committed to, we must work together on the budget, protecting the environment, protecting those who need Medicare and Medicaid, protecting those who need educational loans. And, yes, when we talk about public housing, we must work together because those of us who work together will get the right job done for all of America.

BOSNIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. FUNDERBURK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, I am here to talk about the tragedy of American troops being sent to Bosnia and the fact that the President has made a decision without consulting with the American people and without consulting with Congress.

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We are here for a purpose in the People's House. We were elected to represent the people. Article I, section 8 of the Constitution gives the Congress the authority and the power to raise funds for armies and for the Navy. The President, like he did with the Mexican bailout, has simply gone around the Congress and tried to circumvent us in this action.

It is obvious from the polls taken around the country, and it is obvious from the people who call into our office every day, that there is very little support for the President's action, yet he has gone ahead without the support of the people and without the support of the Congress, and I think there is a tragedy in the making.

Personality I lived 6 years of my life in the Balkans. I was a United States Ambassador to Romania, which borders

Yugoslavia. I traveled over into Yugoslavia, and the terrain in that area is mountainous. Winter is coming in the Balkans at this time. We have got tanks over there that are going to be messed up in the mush and the slog of winter. There are millions of land mines that have been planted by the Bosnia Serbs, and Croats, and Moslems.

And the President said he is sending American troops over there to keep the peace, and that we are going to impose and we are going to bring about a peace, and we are going to stop the genocide of these people. Well, if we go everywhere in the world simply because people were fighting and killing each other, we could be in Sudan, we could be in Northern Ireland, we could be in Afghanistan, we could be all over the world. This is an absurdity.

In 1386 they had a famous battle, the Battle of the Blackbirds in the former Serbia and Yugoslavia, and that is when the Serbs lost, and the Ottoman Turks came in, and they won, and many of the people converted or were forced to convert to Islam. Today the Serbs, who are Orthodox Christians, are still upset and they are still seeking revenge, and they are still fighting against those who became Moslems. So you see you have an ethnic strife that has been going on for 600 years, and we are supposed to send troops over there for 1 year, let them stand in place, get killed by land mines, get killed by radical Arab terrorists who are in the area, and then we exit after 1 year supposedly, and we will have established peace that has not been there for 600 years. Come on, Mr. President, give me a break, get real.

The cost in lives to America is something that we ought to be very careful about, and the cost in dollars. First of all, the President said he was only going to send 20,000 troops. That is what he told the American people. Now it is up to 37,000 troops. First he said it is only going to cost us \$2 billion. Now it is up to \$4 billion.

I mean we are up here to balance the budget, we are here to reduce the deficit, we are here to cut costs, and the President is getting money for a Mexican bailout, \$25 billion out of a slush fund. Now he wants to send \$4 billion, probably much more, to Bosnia, a place that is an artificial creation, it is not a member of NATO. We have NATO set up to defend members of NATO against the Soviet threat. What happened to the Soviet threat? So he said we have got to save NATO by going to Bosnia.

Are you ready for this? The President backed last week the Foreign Minister of Spain, Spain is not even part of the military aspect of NATO, he backed the Foreign Minister, Javier Solana, to be the new NATO military commander. Well, this is an anti-NATO guy who is a member of the Socialist Worker's Party, tried to establish communism in Spain, one of Fidel Castro's best friends. Now he is the head of NATO. We want to go save NATO under the NATO military command of Javier Solana. Give me a break.